

REMARKS

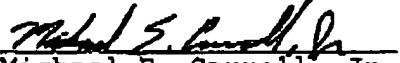
Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group 1 (claims 1-3, 6-44 and 69-80) on the merits with traverse. Additionally, Applicants believe that claims 4 and 5 should be examined with the claims of Group I.

No fees are believed due in connection with this Reply. If any fees are due, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, due in connection with this Reply to Deposit Account Number 19-2167.

Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned to discuss the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael E. Carroll, Jr.
Attorney
Reg. No. 46,602
P.O. Box 489
Hickory, N. C. 28603
Telephone: 828/901-6725

Date: August 6, 2003

RECEIVED
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE